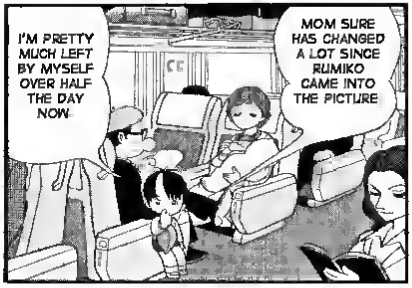
その3 迷子のアドバイス

CHAPTER 3: ADVICE FROM A LOST KID



CAN I?
ガラッ!
COME BACK HERE!
HER TONE ISN'T AS NICE AS BEFORE
NOW SHE GETS ANGRY A LOT.
I'M SO SORRY WE'LL JUST HAVE THIS PACK OF GUM.
WE ARE NOT BUYING ALL OF THOSE.
BUT I WANT THEM!
LOOK AT ALL I GOT!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO CRY, MAKO?
WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE DINNER NO SNACKS
I WANT A SNACK!
HE NEVER LETS GO OF IT.
LOOK AT YOU, TAKING THAT DIRTY THING WITH YOU ON THIS TRIP.
OH. THANK YOU...
I THINK YOUR SON MAY HAVE LEFT THIS ON TOP OF MY CART.

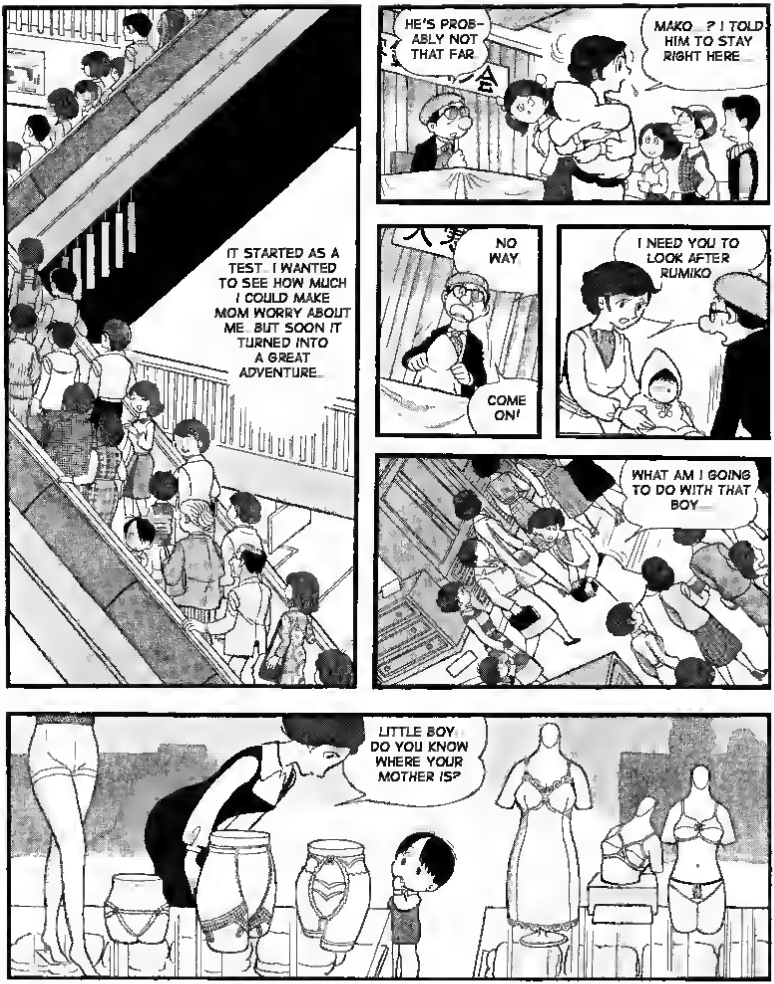
THIS IS MOM'S MOM. I LIKE HER. SHE'S LIKE MOM, BUT NICER.
MAKO! HOW ARE YOU?
GRANDMA!
I CAN'T REALLY IMAGINE MOM AS A BABY, BUT...
SHE SAYS MOM USED TO SUCK ON KONBU A LOT WHEN SHE WAS A KID TOO.
SHE WAS HAPPY MOM WAS BORN WITH SO MUCH HAIR
BEFORE MOM WAS BORN, GRANDMA REALLY LIKED TO EAT KONBU *
THERE'S RUMOR SHE MAY HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO MOM
IS THIS FOR ME? THANK YOU VERY MUCH
GRANDMA! HERE.
I LIKE SEEING MY MOM IN FRONT OF MY GRANDMA. MY GRANDMA SPOILS HER LIKE SHE WAS A KID AGAIN.
YOU COULD BE AN ARTIST LIKE YOUR FATHER
OH MY! VERY GOOD.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M DOING?
GRANDMA!
WHO IS THIS?

*"KELP", COMMON JAPANESE FOOD. GRANDMA WAS HAPPY ABOUT RITSUKO'S THICK HAIR BECAUSE IT RESEMBLED KELP, PROBABLY.

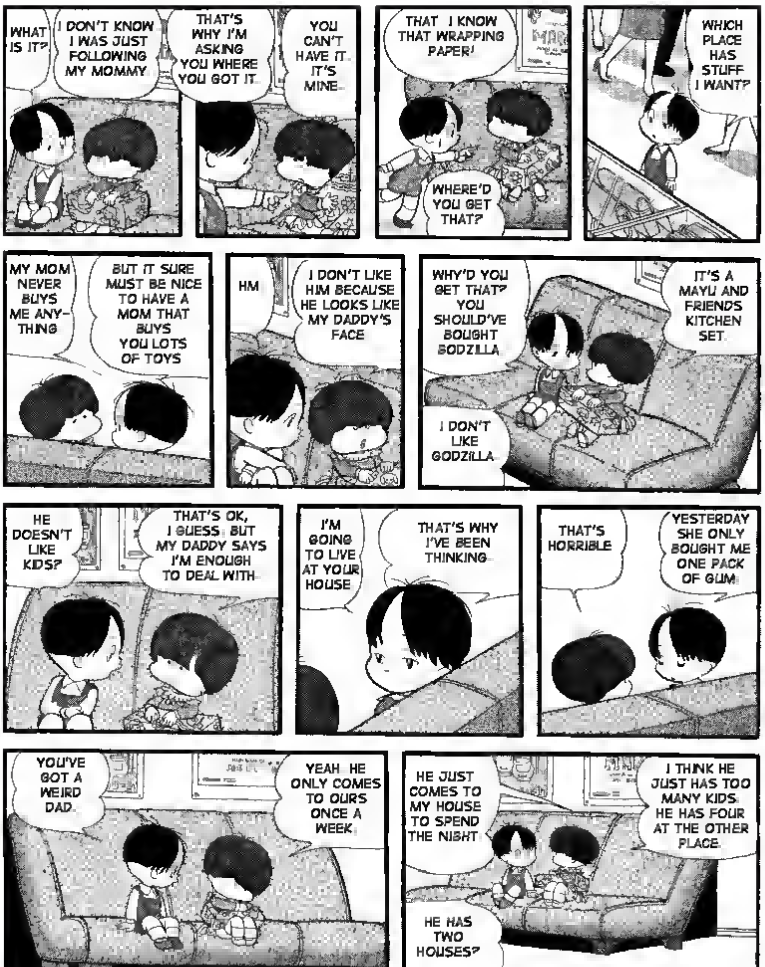
THERE'S A BASKET THAT FLOATS DOWN THE RIVER.
MY, YOU'VE DRAWN A SECOND PART AS WELL?
HERE'S THE NEXT PART.
I AM?
YOU'RE DOING LAUNDRY
THERE'S A BIG MON-STER.
YOU OPEN IT, AND...
HERE'S THE NEXT PART...
THE BASKET
OH YEAH
AND THEN LOOK AND THEN, AND THEN
I'M NOT DONE YET!
NO!!
THAT'S ENO-UGH.
LET GO!
EATS ME?
THEN THE MONSTER EATS YOU.
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE HE'S GOING TO JUST END THE STORY WITH YOUR MOTHER DEAD IN THAT MONSTER'S BELLY.
I DON'T WANT HIM FINISHING THAT STORY!
LOOK AT HIM HE'S CRYING!
THERE'S NO NEED TO FORCE HIM TO GO TO BED.
STORY'S OVER. GO TO SLEEP.

REMEMBER WHEN THAT EDITOR CAME TO OUR HOUSE LAST WEEK?
HE'S BEEN PRETTY TALKATIVE LATELY.
I DON'T KNOW. HE MIGHT...
HE'S NOT GOING TO SAY THAT.
IT'S HARD TO GO TO SLEEP.
HE SLEEPS NAKED WITH MOM.
DOES YOUR DADDY WORK A LOT AT NIGHT?
THEY SHAKE THE WHOLE ROOM.
IT'S NOT SAFE. HIM LISTENING TO EVERY-THING.
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GIVE HIM HIS OWN ROOM TOO.
I'M TELLING YOU, WATCH WHAT YOU SAY AROUND HIM.
I WAS SO EM-BARRASED I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE.
I CAN'T ADJUST WELL IF WE DON'T!
HE WON'T ADJUST WELL IF WE ISOLATE HIM NOW.

RIGHT, BUT WE CAN'T PUT HIM COMPLETELY ON HIS OWN YET.
MUST BE GETTING THE HANG OF BEING THE OLDER BROTHER.
HE'S VERY GOOD TO MAKE SURE HE NEVER GETS IN THE WAY.
HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW MAKO ACTS WHEN I TAKE CARE OF RUMIKO?
THANKS
NO, I'M NOT "GETTING THE HANG OF IT". I DON'T APPROACH MOM BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK PITIFUL.
I WANT MOM'S ATTENTION. ALL OF IT.
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET IT.
AND THE NEXT DAY, I JUST HAPPENED TO GET A GOOD CHANCE, WHEN DAD WAS AT A SIGNING IN THE MALL.
COULD YOU WATCH MAKO FOR ME?
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
NO IDEA. I TOLD YOU NOT TO LEAVE HIM HERE!
DEAR? WHERE'S MAKO?
鉄郎
I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES ON A KID RIGHT NOW.
JUST FOR A FEW MINUTES!

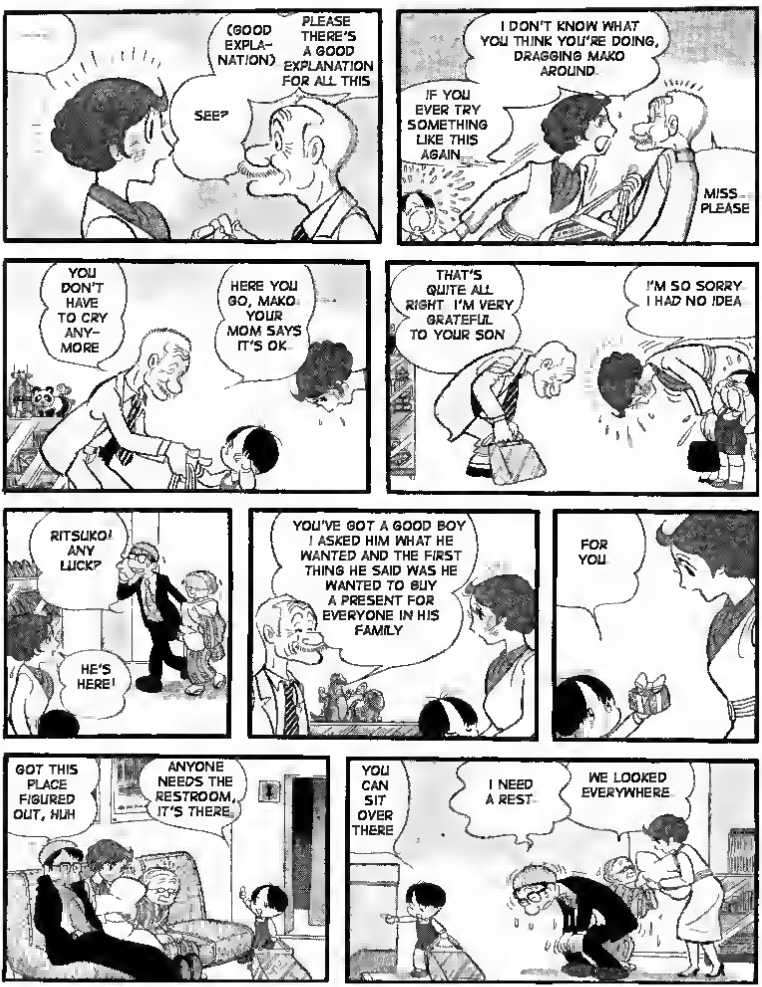

IT STARTED AS A TEST... I WANTED TO SEE HOW MUCH I COULD MAKE MOM WORRY ABOUT ME. BUT SOON IT TURNED INTO A GREAT ADVENTURE...
HE'S PROBABLY NOT THAT FAR...
MAKO...? I TOLD HIM TO STAY RIGHT HERE...
NO WAY.
COME ON!
I NEED YOU TO LOOK AFTER RUMIKO.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH THAT BOY...
LITTLE BOY... DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR MOTHER IS?

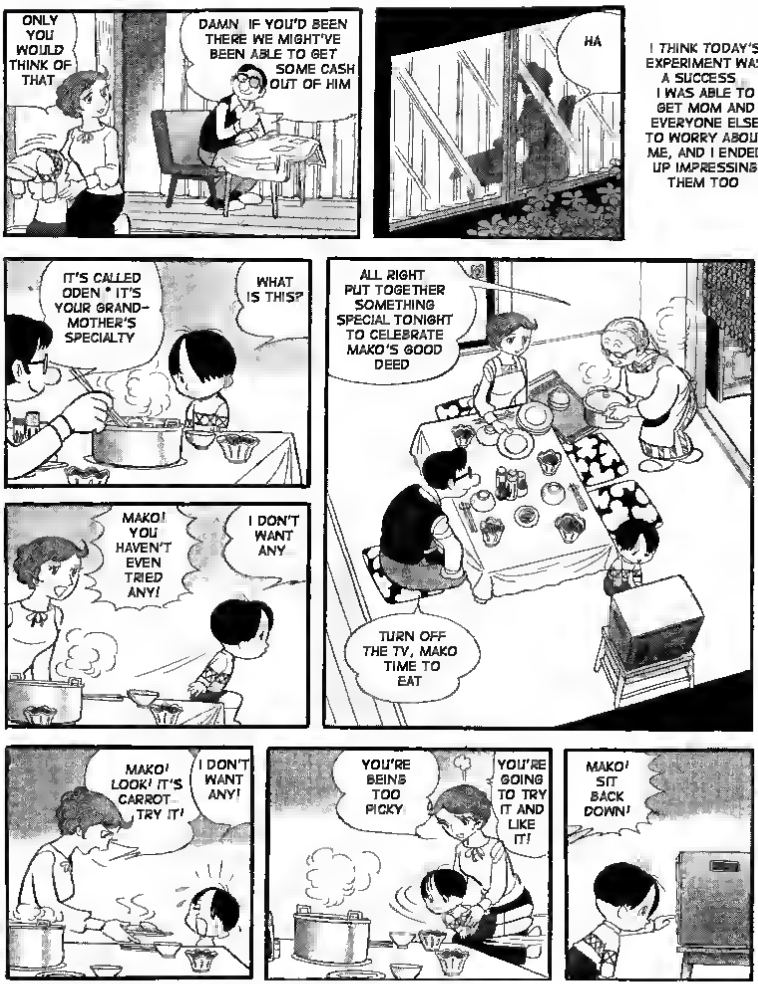
GOING UP...
GOING DOWN...
ARE YOU LOST?
GOING DOWN...
HEY YOU'RE STILL ON?
WAIT...! OH... HEY! COME BACK!
I MADE MY WAY THROUGH LOTS OF SHOPS SELLING LOTS OF DUMB STUFF. I WALKED AROUND FOR A LONG TIME WITHOUT STOPPING SO NO ONE WOULD THINK I WAS LOST.


WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW I WAS JUST FOLLOWING MY MOMMY
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU WHERE YOU GOT IT
YOU CAN'T HAVE IT. IT'S MINE.
THAT I KNOW THAT WRAPPING PAPER!
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?
WHICH PLACE HAS STUFF I WANT?
MY MOM NEVER BUYS ME ANY-THING
BUT IT SURE MUST BE NICE TO HAVE A MOM THAT BUYS YOU LOTS OF TOYS
HM
I DON'T LIKE HIM BECAUSE HE LOOKS LIKE MY DADDY'S FACE
WHY'D YOU GET THAT? YOU SHOULD'VE BOUGHT BODZILLA
I DON'T LIKE GODZILLA
IT'S A MAYU AND FRIENDS KITCHEN SET.
HE DOESN'T LIKE KIDS?
THAT'S OK, I GUESS. BUT MY DADDY SAYS I'M ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH.
I'M GOING TO LIVE AT YOUR HOUSE
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN THINKING.
THAT'S HORRIBLE
YESTERDAY SHE ONLY BOUGHT ME ONE PACK OF GUM.
YOU'VE GOT A WEIRD DAD.
YEAH. HE ONLY COMES TO OURS ONCE A WEEK.
HE JUST COMES TO MY HOUSE TO SPEND THE NIGHT
HE HAS TWO HOUSES?
I THINK HE JUST HAS TOO MANY KIDS. HE HAS FOUR AT THE OTHER PLACE.

AH! MOMMY!
HOME-WRECKER?
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL YOUR MOMMY WHEN YOUR DADDY NEVER STAYS AT HOME
A LOT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS SAY MY MOMMY'S A HOMEWRECKER
ARE YOU LOST? LET'S GO FIND YOUR MOTHER
MOMMY HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO LIVE WITH US CAN HE?
THIS ISN'T THE WAY
I'M HUNGRY
MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK
BEING IN A MALL ISN'T ANY FUN THE ONLY REASON TO GO TO A MALL IS TO BRING LOTS OF MONEY AND THEN BLOW IT
DON'T PUSH!
MOVE I'M TRYING TO GET THROUGH!
THIS ISN'T EITHER!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY MOM AND GRANDMA SEEM SO HAPPY JUST WALKING AROUND LOOKING AT STUFF

HERE.
THIS IS SOME-ONE'S WALLET.
HMM?
STOP!
I'M GOING THIS WAY.
I WANT TO GO THIS WAY!
THIS ... THIS IS IT ! THIS HAS ALL OUR TRAVEL EXPENSES IN IT
YES. A LITTLE BOY FOUND IT. SURE. SEND HIM OVER HERE.
ARE YOU LOST?
...THERE'S 400,000 YEN IN HERE!
THIS BOY SAID HE FOUND IT, SIR
NO. I'M JUST WAITING.
MAKO!
THIS ONE AND THIS!
GO AHEAD AND GET ANYTHING YOU WANT
YOU'RE A VERY GOOD BOY. YOU SAVED ME A LOT OF TIME AND GRIEF!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOLLOWING AROUND A STRANGER?!
HE WAS BUYING THIS FOR ME.
GIVE IT BACK RIGHT NOW!
GET OVER HERE!


(GOOD EXPLA-NATION)
PLEASE THERE'S A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS
SEE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, DRAGGING MAKO AROUND
IF YOU EVER TRY SOMETHING LIKE THIS AGAIN
MISS... PLEASE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY ANY-MORE
HERE YOU GO, MAKO YOUR MOM SAYS IT'S OK
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOUR SON
I'M SO SORRY I HAD NO IDEA
RITSUKO! ANY LUCK?
HE'S HERE!
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD BOY I ASKED HIM WHAT HE WANTED AND THE FIRST THING HE SAID WAS HE WANTED TO BUY A PRESENT FOR EVERYONE IN HIS FAMILY
FOR YOU
GOT THIS PLACE FIGURED OUT, HUH
ANYONE NEEDS THE RESTROOM, IT'S THERE
YOU CAN SIT OVER THERE
I NEED A REST
WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE


ONLY YOU WOULD THINK OF THAT
DAMN IF YOU'D BEEN THERE WE MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET SOME CASH OUT OF HIM
HA
I THINK TODAY'S EXPERIMENT WAS A SUCCESS I WAS ABLE TO GET MOM AND EVERYONE ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT ME, AND I ENDED UP IMPRESSING THEM TOO
IT'S CALLED ODEN.* IT'S YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S SPECIALTY
WHAT IS THIS?
ALL RIGHT PUT TOGETHER SOMETHING SPECIAL TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE MAKO'S GOOD DEED
MAKO! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED ANY!
I DON'T WANT ANY
TURN OFF THE TV, MAKO TIME TO EAT
MAKO! LOOK! IT'S CARROT... TRY IT!
I DON'T WANT ANY!
YOU'RE BEING TOO PICKY
YOU'RE GOING TO TRY IT AND LIKE IT!
MAKO! SIT BACK DOWN!

*BEST GOOGLING THIS ONE TO UNDERSTAND IT.

MOM LET'S JUST LET HIM BE
WAIT I'VE GOT SOME-THING GOOD
MAKO, EAT THIS OR NOTHING AT ALL.
WE CAN'T SPOIL HIM.
YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE HIM
LOOK WHAT I FOUND!
DO YOU LIKE THEM?
YEP.
HERE HAM-BURGERS, MAKO.
(IS THAT... OCTOPUS?)
DO YOU REMEMBER BACK DURING THE WAR, WHEN THEY ONLY RATIONED OUT BREAD?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MIXED ODEN WITH BREAD
IT'S FINE. HE ATE IT, DIDN'T HE?
THOUGHT MAYBE HE'D EAT ODEN IF IT WAS ON A BUN
THE TV WAS SAYING CHILDREN THESE DAYS JUST LOVE HAMBURGERS
I DON'T THINK THAT'S AS BAD AS SOMEONE I RECALL, WHO POURS BLACK TEA ON THEIR RICE WHEN WE'RE OUT OF GREEN TEA
YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY?
WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO USE AROUND THE HOUSE EITHER. I USED TO MAKE SANDWICHES FOR YOU WITH TAKUAN* AND YOU JUST LOVED THEM
I- DON'T REMEM-BER

*PICKLED "DAIKON"... SORRY FOR THIS JAPANESE FOOD LESSON.

ONE OF THE EDITORS NEEDS THE NEXT CHAPTER TOMORROW
WHO WAS IT?
WHAT ARE YOU CALLING HERE FOR?
JUST WAIT TWO OR THREE DAYS
YOU KNOW I'M VISITING FAMILY
THAT NIGHT, A PHONE CALL CAME RIGHT BEFORE BED.
I DON'T MIND BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT MAKO
IT'S THOSE DAMN DEADLINES
WE NEVER GET TO GO BACK HOME TOGETHER
THEY JUST CAN'T LET GO OF YOU
I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE IN THE MORNING
HAVING A LITTLE WRITER'S BLOCK THAT'S ALL
IT'S JUST RECENTLY
YOU'RE TOO BUSY
YOU NEED TO PUT MORE EFFORT INTO RAISING YOUR SON
BE SURE TO MAKE TIME WITH HIM EVERY SO OFTEN
NO FREAKING WAY I'M NOT GOING TO BE YOUR LITTLE IDEA MACHINE
STOP BEING SUCH A WORKAHOLIC
MIGHT GIVE ME AN IDEA OR TWO
WOULDN'T MIND SPENDING SOME TIME WITH THE KID ONCE HE GETS A LITTLE OLDER
NO IDEAS AND YOU DON'T EAT
POOR SLAVES OF THE MANGA TRADE

HOLY MOLY THAT LOOKS IMPORTANT...
ALSO... I FOUND THIS, BUT...
WE'VE BEEN PRETTY BUSY TODAY. HAD A LOT OF LOST PARENT REPORTS. CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES.
DESCRIPTION, PLEASE.
HEY... I THINK MY PARENTS ARE LOST...
I'VE GOT A FIDGETY DAD THAT'S 35 AND A SHORT-FUSED MOM THAT'S 28.
ボギャア
SOME PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO HAVE NICE DREAMS OVER HERE.
オヴヴヴヴヴヴヴヴ
WOW! MAKO! THANKS SO MUCH.
THIS?
I NEED TO REPORT A MISSING...
HE WENT BACK?
HE HAS WORK TO DO.
YOUR FATHER LEFT FOR HOME.
WITHOUT US?
HIS CLOTHES ARE GONE.
WHERE'S DAD?
MOM...
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
WHAT'D SHE GET MAD FOR?
MAKO! WHO TAUGHT YOU A WORD LIKE THAT!?
ARE YOU A HOME-WRECKER? YOU ARE, RIGHT?
MOM...